

WEATHER FORECAST

Tonight fair;
frost, Saturday
fair.

LAS VEGAS OPTIC

WANT ADS PAY WELL

Try One In The
Optic
And Be Sure.

VOL. XXX, NO. 155

EAST LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1909

AFTERNOON EDITION

BLACK HAND CREMATES EIGHT

**FIVE STORY TENEMENT HOUSE
OCCUPIED BY TWENTY
FAMILIES BURNED.**

MANY ARE BADLY INJURED

**BABES THROWN FROM WINDOWS
TO ARMS OF POLICE.
MEN BELOW.**

SOCIETY DEMANDED MONEY

**REQUESTED OWNER OF BUILDING
TO PAY ONE THOUSAND DOL-
LARS FOR HIS LIFE.**

New York, April 30.—Eight persons, five of them children, were burned to death and fourteen others were injured in an incendiary fire in a five-story tenement house at 37 Spring street, occupied by twenty families, early today. The blaze followed a demand from the members of the Black Hand society for the payment of \$1,000 blackmail. The fire spread through the building with startling rapidity as the hallways were soaked with kerosene by the blackmailers. In the panic following the alarm, the tenants fought their way down the fire escapes or jumped from windows, while babies were thrown from windows to the arms of policemen. Among the injured were three children who are not expected to recover. Jacob Bruck, proprietor of a grocery store on the first floor, and the owner of the building, received on April 18 this letter:

"We demand a thousand dollars or death. Bring it to Mot street. Petrosini is dead but the Black Hand lives. (Signed.)

"BLACK HAND SOCIETY."

Monday Bruck received another letter similar. He turned both over to the police.

ABDUL HAMID WILL BE TRIED FOR CONSPIRACY

London, April 30.—A local news agency today publishes a dispatch from Saloniki, European Turkey, saying that it has been officially announced that Abdul Hamid, the deposed sultan of Turkey, is to be tried by a constitutional court martial and it is generally believed a sentence of death will be passed on him.

River Full of Bodies.

Mersina, April 30.—Mersina is under martial law and the Turkish authorities are maintaining order. Sanitary conditions are bad through lack of water, and dead animals fill the streets. The river, which empties into the sea, still carries bodies of dead Christians from the scenes of massacres. Among the ghastly burdens in the stream today was the body of a woman nailed to a cross.

MAN AND WIFE ATTEMPT TO JUMP HONEST DEBT

Ross B. Barger, a cook who had been employed in a restaurant here for the past two months, attempted to play a despicable trick on Mrs. Anna Pearce, a deserving woman in needy circumstances, and got caught nicely by the minions of the law.

It seems that Barger and his wife were indebted to Mrs. Pearce in the sum of \$30 for room rent and nursing. Yesterday she was told that he had obtained employment at the Castaneda hotel, where he and his wife would be given a room. It not being convenient to pay the amount of her bill, he would leave her a trunk containing goods worth double the amount. Mrs. Pearce was shown the contents of the trunk and was satisfied with the security. However, the moment her back was turned, the

trunk was rifled of its contents and filled with old plunder that is of no value to anybody. Becoming suspicious of the actions of Bergen and his wife, Mrs. Pearce searched the trunk and found that she had been duped. Officers were immediately notified and an attachment was served on the trunks which had already been checked to Albuquerque, in which city they are perhaps now being held for the satisfaction of Mrs. Pearce's claim.

Three Negroes Lynched.
Fort Worth, Tex., April 30.—A mob lynched three negroes early today at Marshall, Texas. The negroes had killed a deputy sheriff.

The negroes were Creole Moore, Pie Hill and Mat Chase. They were charged with killing Deputy Sheriff Mark Huffman and wounding a constable a few days ago for raiding a crap game. No arrests have been made.

Two Robbers Hold Up Train.

Spokane, Wash., April 30.—Two bold robbers held up Northern Pacific passenger train No. 3 last night at the point of revolvers, and got away with six sacks of mail. Both made their escape by running the engine to the outskirts of the town and eluding capture, it is believed, in an automobile.

INCENDIARY CAUSES BIG FIRE AT CLOVIS

Clovis, N. M., April 30.—The fire here yesterday started at 3:30 a. m. on the west side of the street and destroyed the Cameo cafe and rooming house, two stories; the Senate bar and bowling alley; the Eagle rooming house, two stories; the Eagle barber shop, the Bon Ton cafe, and the Union saloon. All are a total loss.

The Reigoria hotel, in the Red block and the Johnston Furniture company were damaged about \$2,500. On the opposite side of the street an unoccupied brick building, block of the Dearborn Hardware company and Dr. Boyle's office were gutted by flames and several thousand dollars' damage done.

The total loss is \$25,000. All buildings will be rebuilt by brick.

The fire was of incendiary origin and was the third attempt to burn the buildings.

The city council and chamber of commerce had previously offered \$500 standing reward for the arrest of the guilty incendiaries.

Excellent Display.

Samples of the work which has been done by the manual training department of the New Mexico Normal university are now on display in the large business room in the Pioneer block on Douglas avenue. A portion of the display is on exhibition in the window. The general public is cordially invited to call and inspect the many useful and ornamental articles which have been made by the students. The room will be open tonight and all day tomorrow. No better work has been turned out by any manual training school in the country.

THREE CASES BROUGHT UP IN PROBATE COURT

The will of the late Mrs. Grace Loney Grant, wife of De Soto H. Grant, a Douglas avenue jeweler, will be admitted to probate on June 3. The instrument was drawn by Mrs. Grant herself on November 13, 1908, and witnessed by R. K. McElanahan, M. D., and Mrs. H. M. Rainey on December 24, 1908. It bequeaths the real estate, 905 Fifth street, and all the house furnishings to the surviving husband. A watch, a pearl brooch, a diamond ring and clothing go to little Elizabeth Grant and a band ring to Raymond Grant.

The final report of Edward Toomay, executor of the estate of Nannie Coffelt, deceased, will be made to the probate court on May 29.

W. M. Lewis has been appointed administrator of the estate of A. C. Roberts, a Santa Fe employee who died at the local railroad hospital on December 11, 1908. The father of the deceased, and his only heir, resides in Rockville, Mo. Mr. Lewis gave bond in the sum of \$150, with E. G. Murphy and J. H. York as sureties.

TERRIBLE STORM DESTROYS WHOLE TOWNS AND BRINGS DEATH TO MANY HOUSEHOLDS

**Five Hundred Feet of Wall of Northern
Indiana Penitentiary Blown Down
and Troops are Ordered Out
to Prevent Trouble.**

Chicago, April 30.—Six persons were killed and fifty injured in Chicago and environs during the storm last night according to reports received by the coroner and police. The list of dead includes only those officially reported. It is believed as many more were taken care of privately.

The storm conditions somewhat improved early today, although showers and thunderstorms turning to snow flurries are predicted for the next twenty-four hours. The telegraph companies expect to have their wires repaired, but the extent of the damage is still in doubt. Reports from the south and southwest indicate a great loss of life, stock and property.

Wires are down in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. Telegraph service between the great news centers is greatly hampered and early improvement is problematical. In the south the snow has held up trains and the sales on the lakes has hampered shipping. The report that the town of Horn Lake, Miss., was wiped out by storm is unconfirmed. It is hoped that the train wire service will be mended before night.

The storm which seems to be almost co-extensive with the country has apparently broken all records in number and variety of freakish disturbances. The following are some of them:

The tornado has blown down 500 feet of the west wall of the northern Indiana state prison at Michigan City, and troops are mobilizing to prevent trouble; a tidal wave on Lake Michigan has done great damage at Waukegan and Kenosha; scores of dwellings in Chicago have been demolished by the wind; in the height of the storm a child was born in a basement in Chicago and carried seven miles to safety, though the mother was knocked down repeatedly by the storm, but always falling so as to protect the child. Six persons were killed in the vicinity of Memphis, Tenn. Four lost their lives at Golden, Mo. A blizzard is raging on the great lakes and the snow plows are out in the northern tier of states. Little improvement is expected in the next 24 hours.

Twelve Killed.
Memphis, Tenn., April 30.—The storm broke here shortly after nightfall after a sultry afternoon. The first reports came from the tornado belt of Arkansas, the scene of the recent Brinkley storm. The wind cut a pathway half a mile wide and destroyed buildings and trees. In northern Arkansas 90 persons are known to have been hurt. The storm passed within two miles of Horn Lake, Miss., and ripped buildings from their foundations. The killed is placed at 12. So far as could be seen by railway trainmen, farm houses and cotton gins are a mass of wreckage.

Big Death Rate.

Atlanta, Ga., April 30.—Between 20 and 30 persons dead in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas and scores injured, are the toll last night in the series of tornadoes. Although more fatal to life than the northern storms, the southern tornadoes covered only a small territory. They struck at widely scattered points at intervals throughout yesterday and last night. The death list at an early hour was as follows:

Young's Crossing, Tenn., 5; Medina, Tenn., 2; Horn Lake, Miss., 12; Forest City, Ark., 2; West Marion, Ark., 1.

During the night the telegraph wires went down all over the south except the south Atlantic states.

Town Blown Away.
Louisville, Ky., April 30.—Several



JUDGE MERRITT C. MECHEM.

persons were reported killed in last night's storm near Franklin, Tenn., and the town of Hillsboro, a few miles from here, is said to be blown away.

Much damage is reported at Centerville and other nearby towns.

Temperature Drops.

Wichita, April 30.—A cold bleak wind from the north, heavy clouds and a threatening rain, a 20-mile an hour wind and a temperature of 40 degrees was the weather here early today. The temperature had fallen from 74 degrees since yesterday.

Heavy Snow.

La Crosse, Wis., April 30.—One of the heaviest snowstorms of the winter is raging today. Four inches of snow has fallen and the storm seems likely to continue all day.

Terrible Wind.

Superior, Wis., April 30.—The blizzard is still raging. The snow is driven by a 50-mile wind.

Extends into Panhandle.

Denver, April 30.—Temperature as low as 23 is reported in the fruit region around Grand Junction this morning and much damage has been done to trees. Owners are using smudge pots to protect the fruit. The cold weather extends all over the mountain region and into the Texas Panhandle.

Great Damage in Ohio.

Piqua, Ohio, April 30.—A tornado twenty miles wide struck this section this morning, causing \$100,000 damage. The path of destruction extended over several counties and the damage was done to the towns of Piqua, Sidney, Houston, Fletcher, St. Paris and Kirkwood. There was no loss of life.

Much Damage in Missouri.

Springfield, Mo., April 30.—A special from Summerville, Mo., says that the tornado passed there last night, killing two and injuring many and demolishing property.

Wiped Town Off Map.

Springfield, Mo., April 30.—Another special from Golden says that the tornado which struck there wiped the town off the map with the exception of one brick store. It is reported that five are dead.

Score of Lives Lost.
Nashville, Tenn., April 30.—Late ad-

Officers Capture Blackmailers.

San Francisco, April 30.—An attempt to extort a large sum of money from Rudolph Spreckels, was frustrated last night. According to the story told by Spreckels he received an anonymous letter a few days ago, telling that he should pay \$3,000 to the bearer of a note, who would call. The detectives told Spreckels' butler to give a bundle of papers to the messenger. The man called as indicated by the letter and the detectives arrested him. Later they arrested a confederate.

Race War in Texas.

Beaumont, Tex., April 30.—Advises from Waterman says that a race war has broken out between the employees of two sawmills there. Two are reported killed and six wounded.

MECHEM FOR DISTRICT JUDGE

**PRESIDENT TAFT SENDS NOMI-
NATIONS TO SENATE
TODAY.**

COOLEY ALSO GOES TO BENCH

**LATTER WAS FORMERLY ASSIST-
ANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
UNITED STATES.**

MEMBER OF TENNIS CABINET

**MANY FRIENDS OF TUCUMCARI
ATTORNEY BELIEVE HE WILL
MAKE BRILLIANT RECORD.**

Washington, April 30.—President Taft today sent to the senate the nominations of Ernest W. Lewis of Arizona to be associate justice of the supreme court of Arizona, and Alford W. Cooley and Merritt C. Mechem, both of New Mexico, to be associate justices of the supreme court of New Mexico.

Cooley was formerly assistant attorney general of the United States and was one of Roosevelt's closest friends and a member of the "tennis cabinet." He was originally from New York but he went to New Mexico for his health.

Mr. Mechem is a young man, a lawyer, and has been district attorney of Quay and Guadalupe counties in New Mexico. He was a member of the council of the last legislature, representing San Miguel, Quay and Guadalupe counties. He was one of the early settlers of Tucumcari. He has a brilliant legal mind and will undoubtedly make an excellent record on the bench.

Painter Steals Kit of Tools.

W. K. King, a painter who worked here for three weeks for the firm of Nissen & Sackman, is under arrest at Raton for a robbery committed here. He left Las Vegas less than a week ago and took with him a kit of tools belonging to Fireman Dan Eckert. The latter locate him at the Pass city and notified the officers. He pawned the tools and signed the name of Mr. Sackman to the ticket. It is suspected that King is only an alias under which the man is working as books and letters on his person show several names.

New Ball Team.

A new baseball team with a line-up of excellent players has just been organized on the west side under the name of the "New Mexicans," with Walter Bierman as manager. It is the intention of the manager to bring as many outside teams to this city as possible and to make the team one of the foremost in New Mexico. The New Mexicans will play the Gehring club Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the East side ball grounds and a good fast game is expected. The team is open for dates. All challenges should be sent to Manager Walter Bierman.

ROADS FIGHTING CUT IN CATTLE SHIPPING RATES

St. Louis, April 30.—The taking of testimony in the suit of the railroads of the southwest to restrain the interstate commerce commission from putting into effect a reduction in the cattle shipping rates, has been completed and James A. Seddon, commissioner to take the testimony, has adjourned the hearing to Chicago, where further evidence will be heard. All the roads doing cattle business from Texas and southwestern points to St. Louis, Chicago, New Orleans, Omaha, Kansas City and St. Joseph are the plaintiffs in the case. The railroads failed to obtain a temporary injunction against the commission and testimony is now being taken in an effort to obtain a permanent injunction.